

Tom McElheny (center) with family at his oldest son's high school graduation. From left: Caitlin, wife Diane, Carrick, Tavis, and Cail



McElheny as a young Marine in 1969.

Danang. He quickly fell into a routine of running ambushes and patrols to keep the Viet Cong at bay.

"We were ordered to kill as many of the Viet Cong coming in at night as we could," recounts McElheny.

There were many "incidents" but one in particular occupies his memory. On November 6, he and a squad of 13 men were chosen to move into Kim Lien village after dark to intercept VC

assassination teams that were fond of flexing their political muscles by killing a village chieftain or some of his family. The mission, says McElheny was "like churning shark-infested water with fresh bloody meat and then diving in to figure out if you can swim safely."

Spaced five meters apart, so that a mine would take no

more than one of them out, the squad moved through the town. "Suddenly shots erupted all around us," Tom remembers. "The VC burst into the huts and began to use villagers as cover. I remember one shrieking woman running out of her hut with a baby in her arms and dragging another child about four years old." McElheny saw the shrapnel strike her body.

"A lieutenant from Intelligence put his hand on my shoulder and told me 'It's

all right, lieutenant. It's your job.' It may have been my job, but it could also break your heart." (McElheny would earn a bronze star medal for that night.)

In the morning, an old Vietnamese couple appeared in front of the village. They had come back to take away the body of their son.

"Our eyes locked on each other. At that moment I imagined myself in his situation. I had never done that before. I was twenty-two years old and never thought of having a son. Years later, when I faced the loss of my own son, I could see that old man's face," says McElheny.

In March 1971, McElheny received orders for a reserved seat on the "freedom bird," the plane that flew troops out of Vietnam. He decided, however, to go back to Hai Van Pass to say goodbye to his troops. Without authority to visit the area, McElheny scrounged a jeep and driver. While he was there, a Viet

Cong fired a rifle-propelled grenade which exploded against the side of the bunker. Tom took some shrapnel in his left hand and rear.

"The wound felt like hot splinters burning into my skin. But if I went to the hospital, they would keep me and I wouldn't catch my freedom bird. Besides, the battalion commander would eat me alive for the unauthor-

ized visit. I determined that nothing would stop my getting out of Vietnam as scheduled. I didn't even change out the clothes that I had been wearing during the ambush. I was smelly and dirty, but I didn't care."

**"I determined that nothing would stop my getting out of Vietnam as scheduled... I was smelly and dirty, but I didn't care. I was alive, and I was going home."**

I was alive, and I was going home," says McElheny.

Twenty-four hours after leaving the combat scene, McElheny was in Los Angeles. After a four-hour layover, spent in Disney World, McElheny landed in Washington D.C. where he decided to stop over and visit Mike Musheno.

► But Mike and his wife had already made plans. Musheno was to serve as a "marshal" for the anti-war rally.

Mike had married fellow student Joan Westlake '71, "the first feminist I had ever met," the June after graduation. He had a graduate assistant fellowship at the American University and supplemented the stipend by working for Congressman Schneebeli who represented Lyncoming County. (He also



McElheny receives his commission during Commencement 1969.



1960s was a time of a new emerging feminist movement on campus as well as the anti-war movement.



I made the decision to go to Canada if his draft number came up. It was never drawn.) Off hours from her work as a reporter for a trade magazine, she threw herself into the emergent feminist movement. She was one of the founders of the first street clinic to deal with women health issues). Mike threw himself into the anti-war movement activities that were swirling about at American University.

**"I used to think that federal legislation was needed to provide programs. Now, I feel that I have to develop my own strategies."**

"Many of the top officials of government had their limos go by Ward Circle, which is contiguous to the University," says Musheno. "We would block traffic at times we knew they were coming through until the police arrived to break up the rally."

Joan and Mike began marching in all of the big rallies. "I became a marshall—one of the people whom the New Mobilization designated to keep a buffer between the police and marchers. I worked my way up the organization to where I served as a marshall around the speakers podium for a number of large rallies," says Musheno.

In 1971, he and Joan answered an ad to form a rural commune just outside of Washington D.C.

"We had an incredible facility—a nine bedroom former estate with 1200 acres of land and 12 people. It was here that I learned to cook, engage in self-government, and recognize that politics begins at home. We had a number of small businesses (a sand candle factory), and we had a large garden," he continues. "Londonderry Farm" gained a reputation among people living in communes as one of the best. Yes, they smoked marijuana and did a little experimenting with drugs, Mike admits.

Joan and Mike loved Tom as a brother. "He appeared dazed to us upon his arrival," says Mike. "It was an awkward time for both Tom and our friends. We couldn't believe he wanted to attend a



Michael Musheno (now) with daughter Micah

rally we were committed to. We urged him to stay home and rest, but he wanted to see first-hand what he had been hearing about in the news and in the our letters."

► "To his credit, Mike never treated me as the enemy or a warmonger. I was Tom, his old friend," says McElheny.

"That evening, when we got to the Washington Mall, I saw thousands of people—mostly teens or early twenties—all protesting the Vietnam War. Many openly smoked marijuana and others took different kinds of dope."

"I wasn't in uniform, but I had a military haircut. I felt they didn't care about me. That was strange because they were supposed to be there out of deep concern for oppressed draftees. From listening to them, it was obvious they assumed I had



Michael Musheno (then)

nothing to say." Tom continues.

"Another thing, everyone seemed intense. It didn't seem as if they had gathered for a protest so much as they had used it as an opportunity to shout out against authority. Not even in Vietnam had I heard such crude expletives."

McElheny returned to duty and became part of Anglo, an elite "good" A good Marine, McElheny

"The encouraging aspect in the development of these new organizations is that they are being initiated by students to meet specific interests and needs," says Dean Hogan. These interests are supported by numerous staff and faculty advisors and funded through a student activities fee of \$30 per semester.

The two-year-old Creative Arts Society is a good case in point. Peter Coughlin '96, an

art history and history major who is president of the society this year, felt that Lycoming lacked something for him.

"There was no interesting environment for me," he says. Now, the Creative Art Society is one of the most active organizations on campus, putting on four or five events each semester. In the past year, the members have had student poetry readings, fiction readings, an acoustical show featuring original student music, and original one-act plays. They have taken in the Rembrandt exhibition at Pennsylvania State University and are planning a trip to New York City.

The society actually grew out of a "creative arts floor" that was established in Williams Hall, three years ago.

Mike Reaser '96, a commercial art major, was one of the first proponents of the floor as a way to exchange ideas. "I thought it would foster creativity," says Reaser. "Now, I have somebody down the hall I can show my art work to and get a good opinion. There is a real community to our floor."

Coughlin concurs. "It's like a family. It's comfy, it's homey and you

**The Office of Student Affairs has tried to develop a partnership between student life and academic life.**

can smoke in our lounge."

Dean M. Ben Hogan sees these activities and programs not as extra-curricular, but as "co-curricular." "I don't think there should be a dichotomy between work and leisure time," says Hogan. To this end, the Office of Student Affairs has tried

to develop a partnership between student life and academic life.

Even life in residence halls has taken on a new dimension. To encourage new students to get to know professors outside the classroom, the freshmen residence halls of Asbury and Skeath have a faculty mentor for each floor. In the evening, a residence hall may have a faculty member talk about a hobby or a local black minister may lead a discussion on race relations as a way of marking Black

History Month. This is part of what Dean Hogan terms residential education.

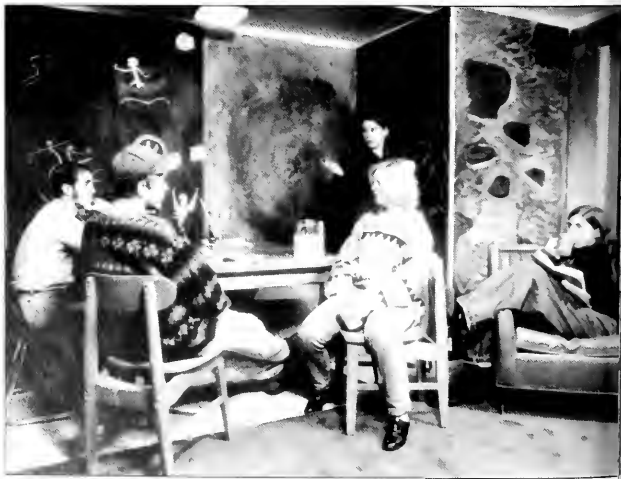
For Jen Alexiou '96 from Nanuet, New York, Lycoming campus life is extraordinarily important. She has been president of her sorority, Gamma Delta Sigma, has served on the Panhellenic Council, was house manager of her sorority's floor, and works in the Admissions Office. These activities, she says, have "totally enriched my college experience." She feels that she picks up leadership skills and learns the dynamics of interacting with people with these activities. Plus, she adds, "I get a good feeling."

In her position, Jen finds herself also interacting with the administration. When she became president of her sorority, she dropped a note to President James Douthat. Much to her surprise, Dr. Douthat invited her into his office and discussed the role of sororities on campus for more than an hour. "We still communicate by e-mail," Jen marvels.

Dean Hogan

Dean M. Ben Hogan came to Lycoming College in the fall of 1992 with 17 years of administrative experience in higher education at four different colleges and universities in New England and New York. A graduate of St. Francis College (Maine), he received a master's degree from the University of Southern Maine and a doctorate from Vanderbilt University.

Hogan has taken a renewed and active view of student life. In summing his philosophy he says: "The institution is not a parent, however, students need to learn that they are expected to meet the standards and expectations of their community."



The lounge of the Creative Arts Floor in Williams Hall is a place for self-expression (on wall canvases) and to find friends with similar interests.



Alexiou '96 works as a tour guide for the Office of Admissions between studies, sorority life and volunteer work.

A revitalized commuter student organization is addressing the needs of a group that has often felt disenfranchised. The group is a mentoring program, matching new students with veteran commuters, and their own tutoring program.

Because many of these students are non-traditional in age and often have young families, the organization has put together a series of family nights as well as a program to entertain young children during several days of the academic year. Even Lycoming is a session but elementary

schools are not. The organization's close working relationship with the administration has resulted in a new snack area.

#### THE STUDENT VOICE

Lycoming students are actively involved in the governance of the College. Students were part of the student committee that studied and evaluated the entire

curriculum. Search committees for new faculty members virtually always include a student. At the very highest level, the president and past president of the Student Senate are invited to the meetings of the Board of Trustees.

**"It is very gratifying to see our students develop a social conscience and to act upon that conviction."**

Hogan has taken student involvement in the administration of the College another step by hiring students as para-professionals. Criminal justice majors now work with security officers; pre-ministerial students act as peer ministers; nursing students work in health services, and others work as career consultants. Having students on staff is not only a learning experience for those students involved, it helps the College be more responsive to student needs.

"Students are more likely to turn to a peer in a time of need than to a professional staff member," says Hogan.

#### GROWING COMMUNITY SERVICE

Some student energy is going into community service. The most popular organization on campus, second only to the Lycoming Choir, is Habitat for Humanity, a volunteer organization that builds homes for low-income people. It now has 85 members.

In fact, students are contributing an estimated 12,000 hours of volunteer service a year, beginning with fall Freshman Orientation when the entire freshman class spends a morning or afternoon working at one of 22 non-profit organizations in the community.

Dean Hogan and Rev. Marco Hunsberger, campus minister, team teach Community Service 105 and 106, which can now be used to fulfill a graduation requirement that calls for two courses in physical education, wellness, or community service.

Fraternities and sororities have volunteer programs that are encouraged both by their own organizations as well as the College. Gamma Delta Sigma sorority runs the local soup kitchen on weekends; the Panhellenic Council (all-sororities) has set up an after-school tutoring program at a housing project. Tau Kappa Epsilon works with the Big



Members of the revamped Student Senate work.

# Voices Of

# PR

It was a summer of storms in the Susquehanna Valley of central Pennsylvania.

In the Little League town of Williamsport, where I was a college student and a summer maintenance worker, the days would dawn sunny and hot. But by mid-afternoon, dark clouds would flow down from the mountains and swirl just overhead.

It was the summer of 1968.

In a two-week period in May, 1,100 Americans died in Vietnam.

I was a 21-year-old mediocre political science major at Lycoming College. I had just started enjoying beer and pickled eggs at Williamsport's Brandon bar. I thought I was in love with a woman who wanted to be a teacher. Only the previous winter, while American soldiers and journalists were dying in the Tet Offensive, I had discovered furtive pre-marital sex.

But I knew only one thing for certain in my life: I wasn't going to die in Vietnam.

And I didn't. I'm alive, with a 17-year-old son, a 22-year marriage and a pretty good job. And I'm not ashamed of it.

From the Williamsport newsroom in the town of Williamsport, Pa.,

today, you can see the bare trees that surround the sunken granite V of the Vietnam Memorial, though you can't see the names carved on it.

Just before I started writing this, I went there. On Panel W14, seventy-eight lines from the top is Merle G. Hubbard's name, right between Charles C. Hinton Jr. and Larry Krebs.

In 1968, Merle was my boss, sort of. We both worked off part of our school expenses in the Lycoming College cafeteria, cleaning tables, stacking dirty dishes, mopping up. Merle supervised a less than dedicated crew of young men who didn't see themselves as future busboys.

The two of us didn't get along. In 1968, we made each other's lives a little less pleasant than they might have been, but we would both soon leave Lycoming and wouldn't have to deal with each other again. On Jan. 25, 1970, age 5 Merle Griffin Hubbard of Sayre, Pa., U.S. Armed Forces, was killed in action in Vietnam. He was 21 years old.

above the Vietnam Memorial, where you can look up any of the 58,183 names of dead friends and relatives.

After that summer of storms, I marched in anti-war parades, had bitter arguments with my World War II veteran father, was called a "slacker" by my grandmother.

In 1970, I married another anti-war Lycoming graduate. The draft board chased me from coast to coast, but ultimately a minor back problem and a sympathetic doctor got me a 4F classification and exemption from military service.

Now I'm 45. Whatever I'm remembered for now in my hometown, it won't be for my death in a war that wasted 58,183 Americans who might have produced beautiful children like my son.

I wish Merle Hubbard could say the same.

Hollis Engley '69

*Deputy managing editor of features, graphics and photography for Gannett News Service. This story appeared Jan 31, 1993, in USA Today. He is married to Diane of Winchester '70. They have a son, 14 years old.*



The 1967 "March on Williamsport" was one of the first demonstrations of the anti-war feeling at Lycoming College. That the students at Lycoming (a conservative college in many people's estimation) would participate in such a march at all suggests the extent to which anti-war and anti-government feeling was sweeping the nation.

Concern about the war had been building for some time. **David Wright '66** was one of those concerned. He had come to Lycoming College after spending a year in Columbia, South America. "I was aware of the politics of the war. I paid attention to the news," says Wright. He married **Christine Walker '68** and after graduation stayed on in Williamsport for a couple of years, playing the mandolin in a group called the "Susquehanna Skilletlicker" and working at Avco Lycoming. His home, across the street



"If the government won't stop the war, we'll stop the government." Students march in protest. Photo: Mark Anderman '75.

in the College on Washington Boulevard, became an annual gathering place.

"We would watch Walter Chronkite every night," he reminisces. One night, the school showed a Joan Baez concert in Washington, D.C., which had turned into a peace demonstration with 100 people.

"Everyone was impressed by that," says Wright. "But I remember you guys are against war and you won't show up. I saw many other people who are out there who are not showing up?"

For the March on the Pentagon in 1967, Lycoming was ready. "A group of us got down in the car of Phil Schuch a French professor.

We were an incredibly well-ordered crowd. This wasn't a bunch of hippies. These were people in business suits and there had to be a half-million of us. We crossed a bridge and scaled the wall of the Pentagon, climbing through the legs of the

military police," says Wright as he tells the story.

"We went back that night to watch Walter Chronkite and see if we had made the news. We were disillusioned by what the media had

done to us," says Wright. They had shown a shot of a "goofball" with a stringless guitar and had downplayed the crowd to 100,000.

The March on the Pentagon, however, motivated the March on Williamsport some months later.

Robbie Cross '69, who had marched on the Pentagon, was one of those participating in the March on Williamsport.

**"People warned us that we would be labelled Communists and be blacklisted from future employment."**



David Wright (then)



David Wright



Lycoming College students were treated to a special Thanksgiving dinner served by the faculty and administration on the Monday before Thanksgiving break. Even Lycoming College president, Dr. James E. Douthat, and the Dean of Student Affairs, Dr. M. Ben Hogan, turned into waiters for the evening.

"This is our fifth year so we can say that this is a Lycoming tradition," said Daniel Ashlock, Jr., director of student programs and leadership development, who is in charge of the event.

Reaction from the students has been very positive.

"It's really neat," said Christine Shawver, a sophomore from Lewistown. "The food is great. There are candles, and it's fun to have the professors wait on you."

Spring Break '99 marked the 10th year that Lycoming College students participated in the Habitat for Humanity Spring Break Collegiate Challenge.

This year, 45 students signed on to spend the week building low-cost housing in Pompano Beach, Florida. Other sites over the years have included Isle of Palms, S.C. (1990); Sumter, S.C. (1991); Donna, Tex. (1992); Homestead, Fla. (1993); New Iberia, La. (1994); Miami, Fla. (1995-96); Boca Raton, Fla., and Phoenix, Ariz. (1997); Winter Haven, Fla., Amarillo, Tex., and Las Vegas, N.M. (1998).

It is also one of just four sites in the United States



Left to Right: Ashley Fetterhoff, Ashli LeVan, Jennifer Moltz, and Kayla Marshall of Troop 258 of Salladasburg, Pa., watch Chuck Doersam of Williamsport, a Lycoming College physics major, demonstrate a law of physics.

that can accommodate 45 students at one time.

"The Habitat trips continue to be one of the most fulfilling and rewarding student experiences," says Rev. J. Marco Hunsberger, advisor to the group. It was Hunsberger who first took students on a spring break Habitat challenge ten years ago.

Over 100 girl scouts participated in the annual "Science Saturday," held November 21 at Lycoming College. The girls are introduced to astronomy, biology, chemistry, physics, and engineering during the half-day event and find out quickly that science can be fun.

The event is organized by Dr. Charles Mahler of the chemistry department, and both students and faculty members of

Lycoming's biology.

chemistry, astronomy and physics departments participate in the program.

This year marks the 20th season for Lycoming's Concerts at Noon. At least once a month, Lycoming's music department gives a 50-minute noontime concert that is open to the public. The audience is invited to bring a bag lunch. Nothing crunchy, please.

## Artist-in-Residence

Al Young, a renowned writer of fiction and nonfiction, spent a week at Lycoming College as an artist-in-residence this past fall.

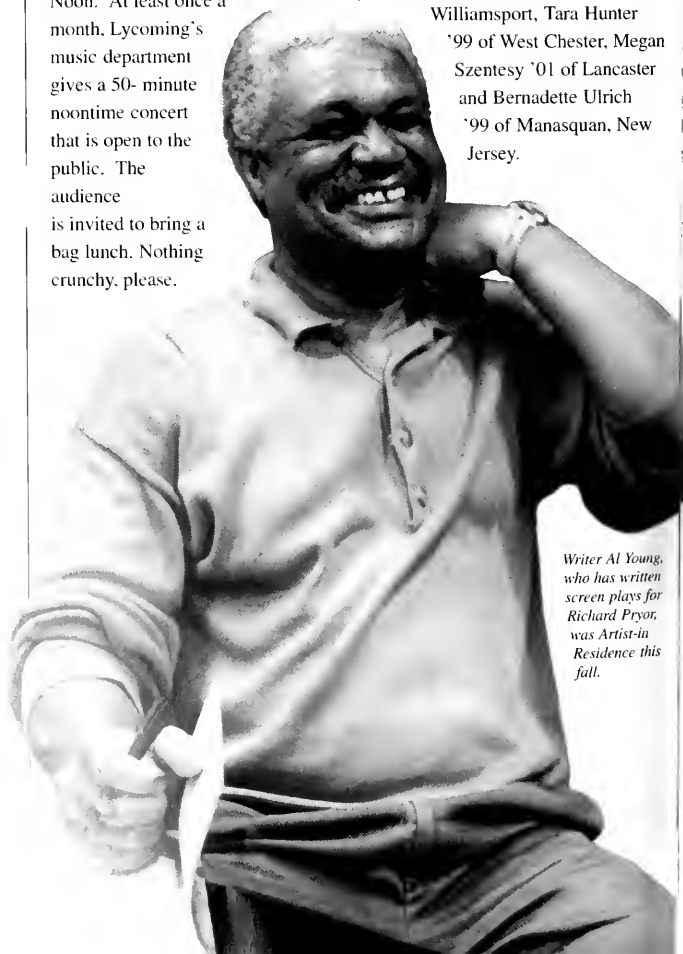
Young has published a variety of works, including five novels and eight books of poetry. Young taught classes while on campus and gave one public reading.

## Two Vocal Groups Make Debut

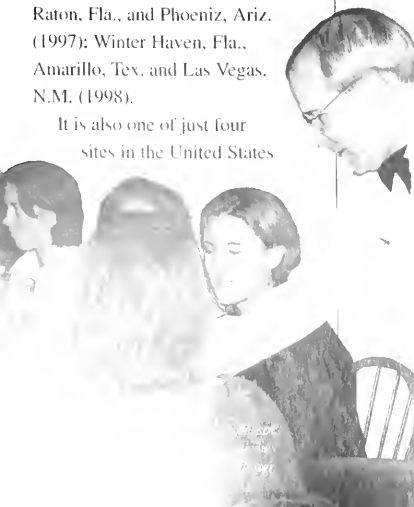
Two new choral groups made their debut this fall in the College's Concert at Noon Series.

Voix Passés (which means voices of the past) is a new group comprised of six female members. The sextet, organized by Allison Mondel '99 as part of an independent study, sings selections from the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. In addition to Mondel, the group includes Kiley Engel '02 of Montgomery, Jessica Faust '99 of

Williamsport, Tara Hunter '99 of West Chester, Megan Szentesy '01 of Lancaster and Bernadette Ulrich '99 of Manasquan, New Jersey.



Writer Al Young, who has written screen plays for Richard Pryor, was Artist-in-Residence this fall.





Twenty-three women are part of a new ensemble called "Fridays @ 4" which takes its name from the rehearsal schedule—every Friday at 4 p.m.

The new women's ensemble is helping to showcase Lycoming's tremendous wealth of musical talent. The Lycoming College choir now numbers 125.

## Breakfast in Bed

You can't get an "A" if you're running on "E." With those words of wisdom in mind, the Lycoming College Student Senate treated freshmen to breakfast in bed on the first day of exams.

Student Senate members delivered a full breakfast to the doors of freshman rooms between 6:00 and 7:30 where it was left on the door step after a discrete knock.

## The Disruptive Force

The annual nursing lecture co-sponsored by Susquehanna Health System, featured Jean Watson, RN, PhD, FAAN, and Distinguished professor.

Dr. Watson is known throughout the world for her pioneering efforts in developing nursing as the



Front row (left to right) Allison Mondel '99 and Megan Szentsev '01; back row (left to right) Bernadette Ulrich '99, Tara Hunter '99, Jessica Faust '99 and Kiley Engel '02.

art and science of human caring. Using this human caring theory, she established the award-winning Denver Nursing Project in Human Caring which is a nurse-managed clinic for individuals with HIV/AIDS.

Jazz took over the Lycoming College campus this spring. The art form was the topic of the spring symposium while the Lycoming College Scholars studied the Jazz Age.



Thorpe Feidt, an artist inspired by jazz.

Before a February 12 jazz concert by The Phil Woods Quintet, Carl Atkins, the program director of the Theolonius Monk Institute of Jazz at the New England Conservatory, gave a lecture on Modern Jazz.

The art gallery exhibited "Responses to Jazz" with photos by William Claxton and paintings by Thorpe Feidt. Feidt also lectured on jazz and painting. B. B. Goldberg, a

The college's new \$175,000 Nuclear Magnetic Resonance spectrometer arrived in January. Lycoming was able to purchase the NMR through the help of a \$87,500 grant from the National Science Foundation.

The NMR is one of the most important tools chemists have for the study of molecular structure. Students will now be able to use the NMR, as well as other laboratory tools, to answer chemical questions the way practicing chemists must do. The sophomore organic chemistry class is the first to use it.

Although the NMR bears the word "nuclear" in its

title, there is nothing radioactive about the instrument. The term "nuclear" refers to the



the Johnson of Mansfield, Pa., a freshman at Lycoming College, before her final exams.



